should be appointed from a panel of three eminent persons suggested by the Chief Minister. However, in the second meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 15th October, 1996, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and Kerala had expressed views to that effect.

The role of Governor has been deliberated upon by the Sarkaria Commission in Chapter IV of its report. This chapter was considered by the Sub-committee of the Council. Para No. 4.16.03 of the report of the Council mention that in order to ensure effective consultation with the Chief Minister in the selection of a person to be appointed as Governor, the procedure of consultation should be perscribed in the Constitution itself by suitably amending article 155. No consensus could be arrived at on this recommendation.

The above recommendation was part of Item No. 4 of the agenda for the second meeting of the Council, consisting of issues proposed to be referred to a High Level Committee. However, as recommended by the Council, the observations and proposals made by the members of the Council at the second meeting would be referred to a Standing Committee of the Council instead of a High Level Committee for consideration and report to the Council. The constitution of the Standing Committee is under consideration.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Criteria for Change in Indian/Foreign promoters of Cellular Service Licences

501. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for changes in Indian2/Foreign promoters of cellular phone service licences;

(b) the particulars of such changes approved by Government so far; and

(c) the particulars of proposals pending with Government seeking such changes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) (a) Criteria for change of Indian and foreign promoters followed by the Deptt. is as follows:

(i) The changes of Indian Promoters/Partners have been permitted where the new promoters/partners, holdings substantial stake were either subsidiaries of the original promoters or group Companies mentioned in the bid documents.

(ii) The cases of change of foreign partners not covered under tender/ lincence conditions are also considered on receipt of applications from the licensee companies duly supported by relevant documents. The new foreign partner proposed to be inducted must satisfy all the criteria taken into consideration for grant of licence.

(b) Eight licensee companies have been permitted change in Indian/foreign partner(s) in 5 cases and foreign partner(s) in 6 cases.

(c) Proposals from 11 licensee companies have been received for change of Indian/foreign partners involving change in Indian partner(s) in 4 cases and foreign partner(s) in 10 cases.

Renaming of Port Blair after veer Sawarkar

502. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for renaming of the Capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands 'Port Blair' after Veer Sawarkar during this 50th year of independence; and